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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/813,303	03/21/2001	Seiichi Banba	010377	1802
38834	7590	03/05/2004	EXAMINER	
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			SHINGLETON, MICHAEL B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2817	

DATE MAILED: 03/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/813,303

Applicant(s)

Mori

Examiner

SHINGLETON

Group Art Unit

2817

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Response

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE Three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12-24-2003
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) 6, 7, 9-11, 15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8, 12-14, 16-19 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vinn et al. 4,717,888 (Vinn) in view of Shaw 2,787,560 (Shaw) and Millman.

Note Figure 1 and elements 30d and 20 therein of Vinn. Vinn is silent on the frequency range of operation and the use of thickness of the thin film resistor being smaller than three times its skin depth at the operating frequency range. Since Shaw is silent on the operation frequency range, clearly the device of Shaw can be operated at any conventionally known operation frequency range for the operational amplifier or differential amplifier. Operating in the microwave range of 1MHz for an OP AMP is a conventional frequency range of operation for an OP AMP as evidenced by Millman. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to operate the OP AMP of Vinn at the microwave range because, as the reference is silent on the operating range any convention frequency range of operation would have been usable therewith such as the well-known microwave (1MHz) operation range as taught by Millman.

Shaw teaches that “[I]n order for metal film resistors to be fully useful for microwave work it is necessary that the film be a relatively small fraction of the skin effect depth for such wavelengths.

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to set the thickness of the thin film resistor to be less than three times its skin depth at the microwave frequency so as to have the resistor be fully useful for microwave work as taught by Shaw.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject

matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 8, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holt page 384 of Electronic Circuits" (Holt) in view of Vinn et al. 4,717,888 (Vinn), Millman and Shaw 2,787,560 (Shaw).

The claimed invention represented by Figures 1 and 13 of the instant application presents a CE amplifier wherein the resistor connected to the collector i.e. "321" or "30" is a thin film resistor.

Figure 13-1 of Holt discloses the CE amplifier having the exact structure of the instant elected and claimed invention, except Holt is silent on the use of a thin film resistor(s) for the resistor R4 that is connected to the collector of the transistor. Holt is silent on the operating frequency range.

In CE configurations like Holt, Vinn teaches that it is well known to those of routine skill in the art to utilize a thin film resistor "30d" for the resistor connected to the collector of the transistor 20. Thin film resistors have lower inductance over discrete units. In other words these resistors are more like ideal resistors compared to the discrete units, i.e. there is an enhanced frequency response because these elements do not have or have lower reactive components. This clearly is one reason why Vinn employs thin film resistors for the resistor connected to the collector of the transistor. Another reason is that the thin film resistor is integrable. Further still another reason Vinn employs thin film resistors as is common knowledge to those of routine skill in the art is that these elements are easily trimmable in the integration process, i.e. their values can be made very accurate. All these reasons that are common knowledge to those of routine skill in the art makes the use of these thin film resistors highly advantageous in amplifier circuits.

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use thin film resistor(s) for the resistor connected to the collector in Holt so as to decrease or eliminate frequency effects, i.e. make for an ideal resistor, allow for integration and trimmability as taught by Vinn.

As to the claimed "no frequency dependency", as stated above no element is ideal, not even applicant's thin film resistor. Therefore since no discrete measurable range is claimed nor any discrete structure that defines "no frequency dependency" the thin film resistors mentioned above are seen as meeting this "limitation". Since Holt is silent on the operation frequency range, clearly the device of Holt can be operated at any conventionally known operation frequency range for the CE amplifier or CE based differential amplifier. Operating in the microwave range of 1MHz for an amplifier is a conventional frequency range of operation for an amplifier as evidenced by Millman. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to operate the amplifier of

Vinn at the microwave range because, as the reference is silent on the operating range any conventional frequency range of operation would have been usable therewith such as the well-known microwave (1MHz) operation range as taught by Millman.

Shaw teaches that “[I]n order for metal film resistors to be fully useful for microwave work it is necessary that the film be a relatively small fraction of the skin effect depth for such wavelengths.

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to set the thickness of the thin film resistor to be less than three times its skin depth at the microwave frequency so as to have the resistor be fully useful for microwave work as taught by Shaw.

Claims 13 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holt page 384 of Electronic Circuits” (Holt) in view of Vinn et al. 4,717,888 (Vinn), Millman and Shaw as applied to claims 1-5, 8, and 14 above, and further in view of Campbell et al. 5,546,033 (Campbell).

The reasoning as presented with respect to claims 1-5, 8 and 14 above as rejected under 35 USC 103 and the following: Claims 16-19 set forth the limitations on the thin film resistors as being of “a metal or a metal compound” that includes the likes of “aluminum, titanium or tantalum”, or “semiconductor”. Holt and Vinn are silent on the use of these compositions to make up a thin-film resistance.

Figure 3 of Campbell discloses the use of a thin film resistance element 311 connected to a transistor can take the form a thin film resistor whose thin film can be a “polycrystalline silicon” i.e. semiconductor, or a tantalum metal. These are art recognized equivalent materials used to make up a thin film resistor.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have substituted conventional semiconductor or metals like tantalum in place of the generic thin film layer of Holt in view of Vinn, as these references are silent as to the material forming the thin film resistor, any art-recognized material, such as that disclosed by Campbell, would have been usable as the well-known conventional thin film resistive material.

Applicant's arguments filed 12-24-2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues the Shaw reference as being “simply vague and indefinite” and that applicant believes that Shaw does not teach “less than three times its skin depth”. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Even if applicant's position that the “small fraction” of Shaw has to be read as “infinitesimally small”

then an “infinitesimally small” amount is certainly “less than three times its skin depth” and therefore applicant’s belief that Shaw does not teach “less than three times its skin depth” is unsupported. A “small fraction” does not make the Shaw reference vague and indefinite for this is merely a result effective variable in which the selection or optimum range for this involves but routine skill in the art. If the selection of this result effective variable is within routine skill then it follows that one of ordinary skill would have found this range to be clear. Clearly viewing a “small fraction” as only meaning only an “infinitesimally small” amount is a much to limiting interpretation of Shaw. Applicant also believes that impermissible hindsight was used in the present rejection, i.e. “the Office is in fact picking and choosing from Applicant’s own disclosure to reject the claimed invention.” This is respectfully disagreed with for Shaw was chosen to reject the claimed invention not applicant’s own specification. Shaw was chosen for it provides a clear teaching and motivation for using thin film resistors of certain thickness in microwave work. In other words this reference is known to those of ordinary skill and it was what the combine teachings of the references teach to those of ordinary skill (See In re Keller, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981). This is the standard that was applied and the examiner still contends that the combined teachings of the references makes obvious the claimed invention. Applicant’s belief that the frequency range of 1MHz is general knowledge asserted to reject the claimed invention and not articulated and placed on the record is respectfully disagreed with. The office action clearly cites a reference and the rationale is clearly set forth in the rejection. Given that the reference Vinn is silent on the operating range any conventional frequency range of operation would have been usable therewith including the 1MHz range. Is applicant saying that 1MHz is not a conventional frequency? Or that a 1MHz range cannot be used? This would seem to be contradictory to that a Millman. It is noted that Applicant has not come up with any reason why this frequency can’t be used or if there are any unexpected results from using this frequency. Applicant also mentions 10GHz as if this somehow makes the claims patentable. Applicant’s position is unclear, however, the claim states that the frequency is between 1Mhz and 10GHz and 1MHz is clearly included in this range and accordingly the claim is rejected over prior art for the prior art when taken in combination clearly teaches this frequency. Having a frequency 1MHz is all that is needed to meet the claim language limitation for applicant has not excluded this frequency. Furthermore, applicant has not pointed out how selecting the frequency to be 1MHz to 10GHz excluding the 1MHz frequency is a frequency that cannot be used and that there is unexpected results from using this frequency. The examiner sees no unexpected results for 1+MHz is part of the microwave range. In fact computers have been operating in the GHz range for many years now and they are solid state devices.

Art Unit: 2817

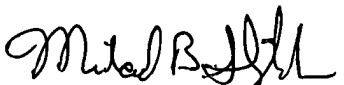
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael B. Shingleton whose telephone number is 571-272-1770. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 to 4:30. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pascal, can be reached on (571)-272-1769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

MBS

February 9, 2004


MICHAEL B SHINGLETON
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP ART UNIT 2817